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July 10, 1999

Dockets Management Branch
(HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

6779 '99 JUL 15 AM 11:48

Ref: Docket #98N-1038

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am concerned about your organization's recent request to change the labeling standards of irradiated foods.

I disapprove of any labeling changes that would make the statements "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" less noticeable or omitted entirely.

I request that the labels be large enough to be visible and uncomplicated to be understandable so that we consumers have knowledge of what is being done to our foods in order that we can make informed decisions on whether or not to purchase and consume a particular food.

As an organization that is responsible for protecting the health of American citizens, it is your obligation to ensure that the labeling of irradiated foods be enforced so that consumers will not be misled.

My interest in personal health has led me to do research on irradiation, and I can honestly say that I do not want to ingest any food that is irradiated with any radioactive material, including cesium-137. There is no way that I believe that any food exposed to radioactive material, in high or low doses, could possibly be safe for me or any consumer. The destruction of nutrients, enzymes, and harmless bacteria are of concern to me, as are other possible adverse effects of irradiation. The risk to consumers' health far outweigh any possible benefits.

In conclusion, I request that irradiated foods be conspicuously labeled with the continued icon of the radura symbol for the benefit and protection of the consumer.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Margaret Pich

Margaret Pich

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